

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

(1) The paragraph on pages 6, lines 5 and 6, was replaced with:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a hermaphroditic fiber optic cable coupling made according to the present invention;

(2) The paragraph on pages 6, lines 5 and 6, was replaced with:

FIGURE 1 is perspective view of a fiber optic coupling 10 which includes two fiber optic connectors 12. Each of the fiber optic connectors 12 includes a connector housing 14, to which is threadingly secured a coupling sleeve 16. The fiber optic connectors 12 are hermaphroditic in that the mating connectors 12 are exact duplicates of one another, and the two identical connectors 12 mate with one another. The coupling sleeves 16 of each of the connectors 12 are threadingly secured to the connector housings 14 of respective ones of the connectors 12. The coupling sleeves 16 are selectively adjusted to make one of the mating connectors 12 correspond to a male connector and the other of the connectors 12 correspond to a female connector to dispose one in a male mode and the other in a female mode, respectively. The ends of the connector housings 14 of respective ones of the connectors 12 each include an insert cap 17, having three protuberant portions from which extend from a recessed face 19 of the insert cap to define a tower frame 18 and two tangs 20 and 22. The tower frame 18 defines an outwardly offset face 21, which is stepped outward of the recessed face of the insert cap 17. The three protuberant portions 18, 20 and 22 are arranged in an interlocking alignment with respective portions of a mating connector 12, such that the two tangs 20 and 22 are disposed in a keyed arrangement relative to the tower frame 18 for fitting on opposite sides of the tower frame 18 of the insert cap 17 of the mating connector 12. The tower [frame18] frame 18 contains two apertures 24 for passing optical fibers, and a periphery 26 which defines a recess 28 and exteriorly disposed side profiles 29. The tang 20 has a periphery 30 and the tang 22 has a periphery 32, with each of the peripheries 30 and 32 defining interiorly facing profiles 33. The interiorly facing profiles 33 of the tangs 20

and 22 fit flush against mating contours of the exteriorly disposed side profiles 29 of the tower frame 18 of the insert cap 17. Two termini 34 of optical fibers are shown disposed in the region between the insert cap tower 18 and respective ones of the two tangs 20 and 22. A head of a screw 36 is shown extending within the same region. The recess 28 is fitted with a screw and is also provided for receiving a second retaining screw 36 of a mating one of the connectors 12. Two termini 34 (not shown) are disposed within respective ones of the apertures 24.

(3) The paragraph on pages 11, line 20 through page 12, line 18 was replaced with:

The coupling sleeve 16 has an [O'ring] O-ring seal 80 on a forward end thereof. The coupling sleeve 16 also has a hole 82 which extends in a radial direction with respect to the longitudinal axis 40 of the connector 12. The stop pin 62 is press fit into the hole 82, and protrudes inwardly into the interior of the sleeve 16 for fitting into the L-shaped slot 54 through the annular rib 51 when the connector 12 is disposed in the male mode (shown in FIGURE 3). The threads 84 are interiorly disposed on the forward end of the coupling sleeve 16. A rearwardly facing interior shoulder 86 is provided for engaging a forwardly facing end of an annular shoulder 87 of the main body sleeve 42 when the coupling 16 is disposed in a retracted position relative to the main body 42, which disposes the connector 12, as shown in FIGURE 3, in a male connector mode in which the coupling sleeve 16 is disposed in the male position. When the coupling sleeve 16 is disposed in an extended position (shown in phantom for the left-connector 12 of FIGURE 1) to extend forward of the sleeve 42, the coupling sleeve 16 is disposed in a female position; and the connector 12 is disposed in a female connector mode for coupling to a mating connector 12 which is disposed in a male connector mode (shown for the right-connector 12 of FIGURE 1 and in FIGURE 3) with the threads 84 of the coupling sleeve of the female mode connector 12 engaging the threaded end 44 of the main body sleeve 42 of the male mode connector 12. The pin 62 is removed from within the slot 54 through the annular-shaped rib 52, allowing the coupling sleeve 16 to move relative to the main body sleeve 42 such that the coupling sleeve 16 may be moved from the retracted, non-rotating position with the connector 12 disposed in the male mode,